

HOUSE BILL 3240
By Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the composition and election of the city council and the board of education of the city of Bristol.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991, and any other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by deleting Section 2-1 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 2-1. A governing body for the city shall be known as the "City Council of the City of Bristol." The city council shall consist of five (5) persons, three (3) of whom shall be elected from three (3) councilmanic districts by the eligible voters of the city at large, and two (2) of whom shall be elected to at-large seats by the eligible voters of the city at large. The councilmanic districts shall be designated as East District, South District and West District, and shall be drawn so as to give due regard to an equalization of population among the districts. Whenever any area is annexed to the city of Bristol, the annexing ordinance or law shall set forth the councilmanic district or districts included in the area so annexed. The boundaries of such districts may be changed from time to time by ordinance or resolution of the city council after first submitting any

proposed change to the planning commission for its review and recommendation.

Provided, however, no boundary change shall be made that places a duly elected councilman, during such councilman's term of office, in a district other than the one to which the councilman was elected. No person shall be eligible for the office of councilman unless the person has been a resident of the city and a citizen of Tennessee for at least a year prior to such person's election, and is at least twenty-one (21) years of age. No person who holds any kind of an office, executive, judicial or legislative, under the United States, the State of Tennessee, Sullivan County, or an employee of the city of Bristol, Tennessee, shall be eligible for the office of councilman.

SECTION 2. Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991, as amended, is amended by deleting Section 2-2 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 2-2(a). Following the initial election of five (5) city councilmen, the election for such office shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in June in each odd numbered year thereafter as seats become vacant and terms expire. A candidate from each district receiving the largest number of votes from all districts shall be declared to be elected as the councilman from that district. The candidates for the at-large seats receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared to be elected to those seats. In order to stagger their terms, candidates elected from the councilmanic districts shall be elected at the same time and candidates elected to the at-large seats shall be elected at the same time. The terms of office for councilmen shall be four (4) years. All qualified voters of the city may vote for candidates for all of the seats notwithstanding the residency of the voter. The term of each councilman shall begin on the date of the next regular city council meeting in July following such councilman's election. All councilmen shall be eligible for reelection.

(b) The election to be held in June, 1997, for the seats from the existing districts 1, 3, and 5, shall be conducted in accordance with the foregoing amendments to the city

charter, during which election the seats for the new East District, South District and West District shall be filled. The foregoing amendments to the city charter shall first become applicable to the seats from the existing districts 2 and 4, in the election to be held in June, 1999, during which election the two new at-large seats shall be filled.

(c) Nothing in this act shall be construed as having the effect of removing any incumbent from office or abridging the term of any official prior to the end of the term for which such official was elected.

SECTION 3. Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991, as amended, is amended by deleting Section 6-2(a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 6-2(a). Members of the board of education shall be residents of and elected by the qualified voters of the city at large with one (1) member coming from each of five (5) districts of substantially equal population established by resolution of the city council. The candidate from each district receiving the largest number of votes from all districts shall be declared to be elected as the board member from that district. In order to stagger their terms, candidates elected from districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected at the same time and candidates from districts 2 and 4 shall be elected at the same time. The terms of office for members of the board of education shall be four (4) years. All qualified voters of the city may vote for candidates from all of the districts notwithstanding the residency of the voter. The term of each board member shall begin on July 1 after the election. All members shall be eligible for reelection. Whenever any area is annexed to the city of Bristol, the city council shall designate by ordinance or resolution the district or districts included in the area so annexed. The boundaries of such districts may be changed from time to time by the city council.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of

the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the governing body of the city of Bristol prior to January 1, 1997. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the mayor and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 6. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 5.